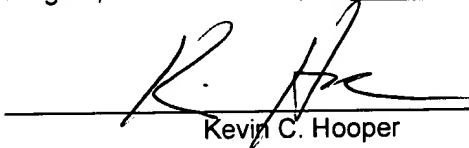


REMARKS

Filed concurrently herewith is Appellants' Brief On Appeal. In order to reduce the number of issues on appeal, claims 5 and 6 have been canceled, without prejudice. No other changes to the claims have been made. Accordingly, entry of the amendment is appropriate. See 37 CFR §1.116(b).

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned attorney.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Arlington, VA 22313-1450, on March 24, 2004.


Kevin C. Hooper

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Kevin C. Hooper
Registration No. 40,402
BRYAN CAVE LLP
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104-3300
Tel: (212) 541-2000
Fax: (212) 541-4630